

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 HA-05
MCT-01 IO-13 BIB-01 CU-04 /103 W
-----077071 220050Z /70

P R 211615Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6422
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 7905

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB SHUM EC
SUBJ: AZTRA UPDATE: FURTHER ARRESTS BUT HOPE FOR CEOSL'S CHAVEZ

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ARRESTS OF LABOR LEADERS CONNECTED WITH
THE AZTRA INCIDENT CONTINUE, BUT MINGOV JARRIN HAS SHOWN
WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS CONDITIONAL RELEASE OF CEOSL'S (ECUADOR-
EAN CONFEDERATION OF FREE LABOR ORGANIZATIONS) JOSE CHAVEZ.
END SUMMARY.

2. ARRESTS OF LABOR LEADERS CONTINUE IN THE WAKE OF THE AZTRA
INCIDENT OF OCTOBER 18. CEOSL SECRETARY GENERAL CARLOS BUGOS,
THE SECOND RANKING OFFICIAL OF THAT CONFEDERATION, WAS ARRESTED
IN GUAYAQUIL NOVEMBER 18. HIS ARREST HAS NOT BEEN REPORTED
IN THE PRESS AND OTHER CEOSL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE
PUZZLED BECAUSE BURGOS IS NOT EVEN INDIRECTLY RELATED TO THE
AZTRA AFFAIR AND HAS REFRAINED FROM ASSOCIATING HIMSELF WITH
ANY PUBLIC CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT. ALSO ARRESTED ON THAT
DATE WAS JULIO CHACON, PRESIDENT OF THE AZUAY (CUENCA)
PROVINCIAL WORKERS' FEDERATION (AFFILIATED TO THE
COMMUNIST CTE CONFEDERATION.) CHACON WAS REPORTED
ARRESTED WHILE ATTEMPTING TO VISIT CERTAIN LABOR LEADERS
ARRESTED DURING THE AZTRA INCIDENT. AT THE SAME TIME A
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STUDENT LEADER FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CUENCA WAS REPORTEDLY
DETAINED.

3. RAUL INTRIAGO, RECORDING SECRETARY OF CEOSL, HAD AN
INTERVIEW WITH MINGOV COL. JARRIN THE EVENING OF NOV. 18.
INTRIAGO, A STRONG DEMOCRAT AND AN INVITEE TO THE UPCOMING
CONVENTION OF THE AFL-CIO, STRONGLY IDENTIFIED CEOSL AS A

DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION AFFILIATED TO ORIT JOINTLY WITH THE AFL-CIO. HE DENIED THAT CEOSL WAS COMMUNIST CONTROLLED AND INFORMED THE MINISTER THAT FOLLOWING THE SOLUTION OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM (I.E. CHAVEZ' DETENTION) THE CONFEDERATION HAD IN FACT FORMALLY RESOLVED TO BREAK OFF ALL CONTACT WITH ITS COMMUNIST AND MARXIST COUNTERPARTS. HE DENIED THAT CEOSL PRESIDENT CHAVEZ WAS A COMMUNIST.

4. IN A CONVERSATION WITH POL/LABOFF THE EVENING OF NOV. 18 INTRIAGO REPORTED THAT JARRIN HAD OFFERED TO RELEASE CHAVEZ IF THE LATTER WOULD PERSONALLY PLEDGE TO IMMEDIATELY AND PERMANENTLY DISCONTINUE ALL CONTACT BETWEEN CEOSL AND THE OTHER (MARXIST/COMMUNIST) CONFEDERATIONS. ACCORDING TO THE ARRANGEMENT WORKED OUT BETWEEN JARRIN AND INTRIAGO, CEOSL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS WILL VISIT CHAVEZ IN JAIN NOV. 21. (WITH A PRESS PROVIDED BY JARRIN) TO PRESENT MINISTER'S DEAL AND URGE ACCEPTANCE. IF CHAVEZ AGREES, HE WILL BE RELEASED. IT IS NOT CLEAR IF CHAVEZ WOULD STILL FACE CHARGES. THE ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN INTRIAGO AND THE MINISTER WAS RATIFIED BY THE CEOSL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING OF NOV. 19.

5. INTRIAGO AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING IN QUITO NOV. 19, NOW SHARE THE VIEW THAT THE BEST HOPE FOR CHAVEZ' RELEASE LIES IN THE EFFORTS OF THE AFL-CIO AND IN THE EARLIER EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN BY THE EMBASSY. INTRIAGO ASCRIBES THE CHANGE IN JARRIN'S ATTITUDE TO EMBASSY
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GROUNDWORK. THE COUNCIL FURTHER AGREED TO DISCONTINUE SIGNING JOINT PROTESTS WITH THE OTHER CONFEDERATIONS.

6. FINALLY, THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT IS SCHEDULED TO MEET TODAY WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SAN CARLOS SUGAR MILL MANAGEMENT AND UNION. SAN CARLOS IS THE ONLY MAJOR SUGAR MILL REMAINING ON STRIKE. THIS MEETING LIKELY PRESAGES A SETTLEMENT SINCE IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THE SAN CARLOS UNION WILL BE LIKELY TO HOLD OUT ALONE WHIN THE OTHERS HAVE SETTLED.

7. COMMENT: UNFORTUNATELY, JARRIN'S PROPOSAL SEEMS TO LACK SUBTLETY AND WOULD REQUIRE A TOTAL SURRENDER BY CHAVEZ. IT WOULD BE MORE LIKELY ACCEPTABLE TO CHAVEZ IF IT CONTINAINED SOME FACE-SAVING MEASURE. THE POSSIBILITIES OF CHAVEZ' ACCEPTANCE WILL PROBABLY DEPEND LARGELY ON HOW IT IS PRESENTED. THE CONTINUING ARRESTS, COMBINED WITH CHAVEZ' GREAT FRUSTRATION AFTER FOUR WEEKS IN PRISON, WILL PROVIDE HIM WITH CONSIDERABLE INCENTIVE. ALSO, WITH THE LIKELY SETTLEMENT OF THE SAN CARLOS STRIKE, THERE WILL REMAIN NO EFFECTIVE METHOD WITHIN CEOSL'S MEANS TO FURTHER PRESSURE THE GOVERNMENT.
BLOOMFIELD

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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